



## PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2000-191774  
(43)Date of publication of application : 11.07.2000  
(51)Int.Cl. C08G 73/00  
C08L 79/00  
// H01B 1/12  
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(30)Priority Nos.: 10301251 Priority 22.10.1998 Country JP  
10301252 date : 22.10.1998 JP

### (54) PRODUCTION OF WATER-SOLUBLE ELECTROCONDUCTIVE POLYANILINE

#### (57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To provide a method for producing a water-soluble electroconductive polyaniline or a derivative thereof.

SOLUTION: This method comprises the following process: polyaniline or a derivative thereof is first sulfonated using a sulfonating agent, wherein the polyaniline or derivative thereof is dispersed in a reaction solvent to suppress flocculate formation due to substantial flocculation, the reaction solvent is preferably inert to the sulfonating agent, the initial agitation power for the sulfonation is pref.  $\geq 0.03$  kW/m<sup>3</sup>, and the water content of the polyaniline or derivative thereof is pref.  $\leq 8$  wt.%, and subsequently, the polyaniline or derivative thereof thus sulfonated is hydrolyzed in a mixed solution of water and a hydrophilic organic solvent (pref. an alcohol). The aqueous solution of the resultant water-soluble electroconductive polyaniline or the like thus obtained which is capable of forming a thin film by a simple means such as spin coating, dip coating or bar coating, can be used in various antistatic applications, nonlinear optical materials, or the like.

### LEGAL STATUS

[Date of request for examination]

[Date of sending the examiner's decision of rejection]

[Kind of final disposal of application other than the examiner's decision of rejection or application converted registration]

[Date of final disposal for application]

[Patent number]

[Date of registration]

[Number of appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of requesting appeal against examiner's decision of rejection]

[Date of extinction of right]